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Letter dated 9 September 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the attached letter which I received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan dated 1 September 2005.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Letter dated 1 September 2005 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the role played by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), authorized under United Nations Security Council resolution 1386 (2001) of 20 December 2001 and subsequent resolutions, and the wider contribution that the United Nations is making towards security and stability in Afghanistan.

Considerable progress has been made in improving security throughout Afghanistan. The presidential elections were successfully conducted in 2004; and the parliamentary and provincial elections are due to be held on 18 September 2005. But the security situation in various parts of the country remains difficult and continues to act as an impediment to further progress in reconstruction and development.

The International Security Assistance Force led by NATO since August 2003, has been crucial in improving security in Kabul, and through its programme of phased expansion, in the north and west of the country. It is also playing a key role in helping to provide security for the forthcoming parliamentary and provincial elections. We look forward to ISAF's future expansion to the south and east, and we welcome the prospect of ISAF continuing to operate in Afghanistan until our Security Forces are fully able to provide security to our nation. The Government of Afghanistan is very grateful to all those nations contributing resources to ISAF and to those nations that have assumed a leadership role.

I hope the Security Council will continue to reflect in its resolutions the paramount importance of fulfilling the ISAF mandate.

(*Signed*) Abdullah **Abdullah**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan